

Serial No.: 10/633,951

Attorney Docket No. OSA001-213473

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claim will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A foldable rolling stairway ladder for use in accessing items, the foldable stairway ladder comprising:

(a) a stairway section adapted for a user to ascend or descend with casters on the lower end;

(b) a platform secured to the stairway section to retain the stairway section at a predetermined slope;

(c) a support of adjustable length rotatably connected to the platform; and

(d) a manually actuatable folding system adapted to reduce the amount of space taken up by the foldable stairway ladder;

wherein the stairway can stand upright in both the folded and unfolded positions.

2. (original) The foldable stairway ladder of claim 1, wherein the folding system comprises a mechanism adapted to fold the support and the stairway section relative to each other.

3. (original) The foldable stairway ladder of claim 2, wherein the mechanism comprises a hinge located between, and connected to, the support and the stairway section.

4. (original) The foldable stairway ladder of claim 3, wherein the hinge comprises a pair of spreaders extending between corresponding sides of the stairway section and the support.

5. (original) The foldable stairway ladder of claim 1, further comprising at least one handrail movably secured to the stairway section at a location where a user can grasp the handrail while ascending or descending the stairway section.

6. (original) The foldable stairway ladder of claim 5, wherein the handrail is capable of moving between at least two positions.

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7. (original) The foldable stairway ladder of claim 6, wherein the two positions comprise a first, deployed position locating the handrail at a predetermined height above the stairway section, and a second, collapsed position locating the handrail at a height below the predetermined height, so that the handrail occupies less space above the stairway section when in the second position.

8. (previously presented) The foldable stairway ladder of claim 1, wherein the support can be adjusted to be approximately the same length as the stairway section.

9. (currently amended) The foldable stairway ladder of claim 1, ~~further comprising a plurality of spring-loaded casters to enable the foldable stairway ladder to be manually rolled wherein the casters are spring-loaded.~~

10. (original) The folding system of claim 1, wherein the folding system substantially comprises mechanical components.

11. (currently amended) A foldable rolling stairway ladder comprising:

(a) a stairway section having a bottom section accessible to a user, a top section at a height above the bottom, and a pair of longitudinal sides extending between the bottom and the top, the stairway section extending upwardly at a slope from the bottom to the top, and the bottom section having casters;

(b) a stopping mechanism secured to the stairway section;

(c) a platform connected to the top section of the stairway section;

(d) a support of adjustable length rotatably secured to and extending downwardly from the platform to support the stairway section in both the folded and the unfolded position;

(e) at least one spreader extending between the stairway section and the support, the spreader being movable to permit the stairway section and the support to rotate relative to each other to fold and unfold the stairway ladder; and

(f) at least one handrail secured at a corresponding longitudinal side of the stairway section, the handrail extending outwardly from the stairway section by a predetermined amount so that the handrail can be grasped by a user.

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12. (previously presented) The foldable stairway ladder of claim 11, wherein the support can be adjusted to be approximately the same length as the stairway section.

13. (original) The foldable stairway ladder of claim 11, wherein the handrail includes a rail and a pair of arms extending between the rail and the stairway section, the arms being rotatable between a first position corresponding to the handrail when deployed and a second position corresponding to the handrail when collapsed.

14. (original) The foldable stairway ladder of claim 11, wherein the support further comprises an upper section with a first end secured to the platform and a second end opposite the first, wherein the lower section of the support is slidably secured to the upper section and thereby is extendible relative to the second end of the upper section to vary the length of the support.

15. (previously presented) The foldable stairway ladder of claim 14, wherein the lower section of the support comprises a pair of members and a base, the members having first ends telescopically received within the upper section elongated and second ends secured to the base, the base adapted to engage a horizontal surface to support the platform.

16. (currently amended) The foldable stairway ladder of claim ~~15~~ 11, ~~further comprising a plurality of spring loaded casters secured to the base~~ further comprising wherein the casters are spring-loaded.

17. (original) The foldable stairway ladder of claim 11, wherein the stairway section is formed substantially of aluminum and the lower section and the spreaders are formed substantially of steel, wherein the lower section is telescopically received within the top section.

18. (original) The foldable stairway ladder of claim 11, further comprising two handrails.

19. (currently amended) A method of increasing space around a foldable stairway ladder when not in use, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a stairway section with casters on the lower end and a support deployable relative to the stairway section to hold the stairway section at a desired angle when the foldable stairway ladder is in use, the support and the stairway section being rotatably secured relative to each other;

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(b) extending a section of the support so that the support and stairway section obtain substantially equal lengths;

(c) unlocking a hinge extending between the support and the stairway section;
and

(d) rotating the stairway section and the support relative to each other to reduce the angle there between to fold the foldable stairway ladder.

20. (original) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of folding one or more handrails rotatably connected to the stairway section from a deployed position, the deployed position located at a predetermined height above the stairway section, to a folded position, the folded position located at a height below the predetermined height.

21. (original) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of securing the foldable stairway ladder in a substantially vertical position by a holding device.

22. (currently amended) A foldable stairway ladder comprising:

(a) a stairway section having a bottom section accessible to a user, an upper section at a height above the bottom, and a pair of longitudinal sides extending between the bottom and the top, the stairway section extending upwardly at a slope from the bottom section to the top section, the bottom section having casters;

(b) a stopping mechanism secured to the stairway section;

(c) a platform with a first end connected to the top of the stairway section;

(d) a support rotatably secured to and extending downwardly from the platform at a second end, the support having an upper and a lower section, wherein the lower section, upper section, and platform are configured to retain the stairway section at a slope ranging between about 48 degrees and about 60 degrees, the lower section secured to the upper section to be extendable relative to the upper section, the support and the stairway section having substantially the same length when the lower section is extended;

(e) a pair of spreaders extending between the stairway section and the upper section, the spreader being movable to permit the stairway section and the upper section to rotate relative to each other to fold and unfold the stairway ladder;

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(f) a pair of handrails secured at to the longitudinal sides of the stairway section, the pair of handrails extending outwardly from the stairway section at a predetermined height so that the handrail can be grasped by a user; and

(g) an actuatable mechanism for folding the handrail relative to the stairway section to reduce the amount the handrail extends from the stairway section.

21. (new) The foldable stairway of claim 1 wherein the casters are wheels, rollers or balls.
22. (new) The foldable stairway of claim 11 wherein the casters are wheels, rollers or balls.